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*Bulletin  
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*June 1961 • Vol. XIV • No. 10*



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XIV

June, 1961

Number 10

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

R Asimov, Isaac. Words from the Myths; decorations by William Barss.  
6- Houghton, 1961. 225p. \$3.

An interesting discussion of those familiar words and expressions in the English language which, in their various forms, are rooted in Greek mythology. Mr. Asimov divides the text into such areas as "The Titans," "The Olympians," "Tales of Men," and "The Heroes." A general index and a mythological index are appended. Although the background chapter gives some evidence of hurried writing, the author's style—effortless, informal, and lively—adds immeasurably to the wide appeal of the subject.

Ad Bartlett, Margaret Farrington. Where the Brook Begins; illus. by Aldren A.  
1-2 Watson. Crowell, 1961. 36p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books) Trade  
ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.35.

For independent reading, a book useful for science or nature study. The text describes with brevity and simplicity the origins of small brooks, and the way in which the smaller brooks may unite to form a larger stream. The short sentences and the use of repetition slow the pace considerably, but they make the information presented easily comprehensible.

Ad Bothwell, Jean. The Mystery Key; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Dial, 1961.  
3-5 124p. \$2.50.

Benny Crisp was the despair of his fifth-grade teacher because he spent so much time in school working on locks and keys; Benny was an expert at repairing them. When his collection at home was ransacked, and when one of his customers was found unconscious, it became clear that some intruder knew that something valuable could be found through a mysterious key. The development of the plot, and Benny's role in tracing the thief and finding the missing tax papers are not quite credible, but the writing is lively, the action has suspense, and the dialogue is well-written.

R Botter, David. Politicians and What They Do. Watts, 1960. 213p. \$3.95.  
7-

Defining politicians as people working for a political party as well as those whose office is dependent upon their party being in power, Mr. Botter cites actual cases to show the functioning of various positions and offices. He describes work done at various levels of government, and discusses the party system, the role of the citizen, and the career of the public servant. A most useful book, well fitted to curricular use and also of general interest. Index is appended.

Ad Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. The Moon Seems To Change; illus. by Helen

- 1-2 Borten. Crowell, 1960. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.35 net.

Another good science book for beginning independent readers. Like others in the series, the book is carefully designed to give a small amount of information with succinct simplicity: the text here explains the phases of the moon clearly, using one home demonstration device. The illustrations are handsome, but not all of them are truly illustrative and several are quite confusing.

- Ad Breetveld, Jim. Getting to know Brazil; illus. by Donald Lanbo. Coward-4-6 McCann, 1960. 64p. \$2.50.

Up-to-date and informative, a book with continuous text about aspects of Brazilian life today, with brief sections about Brazilian history; areas such as government, education, agriculture and industry, recreation and holidays, geographical features, and plant and animal life are described. A map, an index, a brief list of historic dates, and a list of Portuguese words used in the book (with phonetic pronunciation, but without page reference or definition) are included. The book gives an adequate introductory picture of Brazil, but is weakened by generalizations: for example, "The vaqueiro is just the opposite of the fun-loving, singing gaúcho." This also illustrates the author's tendency to refer to people in stereotypic terms.

- R Browne, C. A. The Story of Our National Ballads; rev. by Willard A. Heaps. 7- Crowell, 1960. 314p. \$3.

First published in 1919, here revised again and brought up to date. Patriotic songs, war songs, and some of the folk music and sentimental songs of perennial appeal are described. For the more important national ballads, the discussion is in a separate section that follows the words of the song; no music notation is anywhere included. A most useful book, indexed and with an extensive reading list.

- Ad Bryson, Bernarda. The Twenty Miracles of Saint Nicolas. Little, 1960. 88p. 6-8 illus. \$4.75.

Nineteen stories about the miraculous deeds wrought by Saint Nicolas, with illustrations by the author in medieval style. The writing style is sedate and the stories rather repetitive, with a quality of folk literature. With some editing, the material would be useful as a source for storytelling.

- NR Caldwell, John Cope. Our Neighbors in Japan; by John Cope Caldwell and 3-4 Elsie Fletcher Caldwell; illus. by Heidi Ogawa. John Day, 1960. 49p. (World Neighbors Series) \$2.

Controlled vocabulary, with a section at the back of the book for the teacher, indicates curricular use rather than a more general informational category. The book concludes with a summary of facts to be remembered, and these facts pertain to several aspects of Japanese life covered in the text: housing, food, clothes, holidays, games, modernization. The writing style seems patronizing: "Do you see the wide straw hat the farmer's wife is wearing? Japanese farmers like these wide hats." The hat is shown in a photograph that covers almost a fourth of the page. Photographs are not captioned, and the references to them are not always clear. Although information about other nations is useful at this reading level, the reader may well be discouraged by the tone of kindly talking down. For example: "Once upon a time our country had a war with a country named Japan. But now our countries are friends again. That's like people, isn't it? Boys and girls may have a fight. Then they become good friends again."

- R Calhoun, Mary Huiskamp. Depend on Katie John; pictures by Paul Frame. 4-6 Harper, 1961. 181p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

A second book about Katie John Tucker, a charming and very real heroine of eleven. Katie's problems and successes are all believable: her first interest in a boy, her difficulties with the roomers in her home, her role as a new girl at school. The author writes with humor and sympathy in a light and easy style.

Ad Campbell, Elizabeth A. Nails to Nickels; The Story of American Coins Old 2-3 and New; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Little, 1960. 58p. \$3.  
The history of money in the United States is divided into three parts: money of long ago, coins of yesterday, and coins of today. Format is attractive, with clear, large type and a good deal of clear space; illustrations are also attractive, although they are not detailed enough to be useful in identifying coins. The writing style is dry and is, in most of the book, oversimplified; however, the material is of general interest and the subject is covered in a most competent manner.

Ad Chauncy, Nan. A Fortune for the Brave; illus. by Margaret Horder. Watts, 6-8 1961. 216p. \$2.95.  
An adventure story set in Tasmania, in which a group of young people hunt for treasure because they are sure they will find some gold bullion from a wrecked ship. Good writing style and good characterization, but there is in this story an unpleasant and unjustifiable hostility among some of the characters that weakens the book. One of the cousins, for example, steals into Huon's room to read his diary. Huon, returning after a childhood in England to his Tasmanian birthplace, finds that his cousins and their friends regard him as a rival for the treasure. Their treasure turns out to be a swarm of bees and the ending of the story is a happy change from the usual plot, with a logical explanation of their mistake and a protagonist satisfied with his lot.

NR Cheney, Cora. China Sea Roundup; by Cora Cheney and Ben Partridge; illus. 4-6 by H. Tom Hall. Knopf, 1960. 112p. \$2.50.  
Ropes Randall, age fifteen, was in disgrace because he had lassoed the principal; his father, a naval officer in the Philippines, decreed that Ropes have no social life during the Christmas vacation. Ropes was allowed to go on a fishing expedition with two friends. The fishing turned out to be a spy-catching trip when Ropes lassoed a submarine periscope and marked it with his life jacket. Picked up by the Navy, the boys were at first not believed; they were heroes, however, when the submarine (country of origin not named) was sighted and sunk. Not a credible plot, and with few characters that are not stereotyped; the one strength of the book is in the background of Filipino people, but this is not a major part of the book.

R Cheney, Cora. The Peg-Legged Pirate of Sulu; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. 3-5 Knopf, 1960. 109p. \$2.75.  
An unusual setting and a suspenseful plot combine to make a vivid story. Ping is the central character, a very real boy living on Cebu Island in 1776; he becomes involved with a pirate who has been thought dead and has become a legend. The boy is courageous in danger and helps rehabilitate the pirate; both Ping's role and the solution are handled with restraint and proportion. Although the involvement with the pirate is the moving element in the development of the story, the chief appeal of the book lies in the description of the family life and the relationship, especially, between the boy and his grandfather.

Ad Ciardi, John. I Met a Man; illus. by Robert Osborn. Houghton, 1961. 74p. 1-2 Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$3.  
Thirty-one poems for beginning independent readers, with the purpose (as stated by the author) of leading the child past the familiar words to some new ones. Mr. Ciardi has chosen as devices for stimulating interest rhyme, riddles, context, and word



games; the vocabulary difficulty increases with the later pages of the book. The poems and the illustrations are bright and amusing, some of the poetry being dependent on the accompanying drawing for comprehension.

R Cooney, Barbara, illus. The American Speller; An Adaptation of Noah Webster-K-4 Blue-Backed Speller. Crowell, 1960. 77p. \$2.95.

Adapted for present-day use from Noah Webster's classic book, with typography and illustrations that are appropriate, distinctive, and charming. To teach the basic sounds of our language, the book is divided into sections such as consonants, vowel sounds, silent letters, consonant blends, words ending in *le*, etc. The sentences in which the letters are used are pithy, sensible, often humorous; the letters being illustrated are in colored type within the body of the sentence. Useful for reading aloud to the very young, instructive for the independent reader in the fourth grade, and interesting to the reader who, regardless of age, is aware of the historical importance of the ubiquitous original.

R Crockett, Lucy Herndon. The Year Something Almost Happened in Pinoso. 7-10 Pantheon, 1960. 160p. \$3.

A delightful tongue-in-cheek story about a sleepy Spanish village, whose highly individual characters were content to remain in their decaying torpor. The village of Pinoso was briefly revolutionized when the animals of an abandoned circus became tame town wards; inspired by this change, the citizens began to spruce up the town. As the result of a government inquiry, the animals—by this time much loved—were taken away to be put in a zoo, and with mingled feelings of regret and relief, Pinoso reverted comfortably to the old ways. A tall tale told with great relish and with a sophisticated humor.

Ad Davis, Kenneth Sydney. Flight to Glory; The Story of Charles A. Lindbergh 6-8 and the Spirit of St. Louis; illus. by John N. Barron. Garden City, 1960. 56p. \$2.95.

An oversize book that gives a detailed and dramatic account of Lindbergh's flight to Paris in 1927, the first solo crossing of the Atlantic. Prefacing the description of the flight itself are a discussion of the history of the Orteig Prize (the \$25,000 prize for the first non-stop flight between New York and Paris) and a rather lengthy biographical account of Lindbergh, with emphasis on his aviation training and experience. The writing style is rather heavy and slightly romantic, but the book gives a convincing picture of the somber young flier and the tension of his historic flight.

Ad Durham, John. Queen of Diamonds. Putnam, 1960. 158p. \$2.95. 9-

An intellectual in a world of Babbitts, Carol found Mr. Williams, her new English teacher, understanding and sympathetic. When her invalid and widowed mother, feeling threatened, maliciously engineered the teacher's dismissal, Carol resigned herself to the prospect of marrying dull, kind George. But Mr. Williams came back and they found that they were in love; he then told Carol that it was probable that her mother's illness was psychosomatic. Confronted with this suggestion, the sick woman commits suicide—at least, her fatal fall down the stairs is assumed by Carol to be deliberate. Despite the fact that the solution is melodramatic and stark, the major part of the book is without melodrama and stereotype. Mr. Durham writes with sympathy and perception, having Carol tell her own story; if the book moves slowly in some parts, it also gives the author an opportunity to develop in detail the complicated relationship between mother and daughter.

M Dias, Earl J. One-Act Plays for Teen-Agers; A collection of royalty-free



8-10 comedies. Plays, Inc., 1961. 339p. \$5.

Fifteen plays, with brief production notes for each at the conclusion of the play. Most of the material is in a rather labored comic vein, both the plot development and the dialogue being very contrived. Characters tend to the stereotype, and the mediocre level of the humor is occasionally relieved by sentimentality. The book has some minimal use as additional material where there is a heavy demand for one-act plays, but it is too immature for the serious student of drama or for the high school student old enough to appreciate adult theater.

Ad Eastman, Philip D. Go, Dog. Go! Random House, 1961. 64p. illus. (Be-  
1 ginner Books) \$1.95.

For the just-beginning independent reader, a picture book with cartoon-type illustrations and with a 75-word vocabulary. The text does not tell a story, but tells of canine activities in a nonsense vein: for example, the drawings show two dogs passing each other on scooters and saying "Hello again." "Hello." "Do you like my hat?" "I do not like it." "Good-by again." "Good-by." Useful as supplementary material for beginning readers, but the exaggerated tone of the illustrations, the fact that words are in random arrangement all over the pages, and the lack of continuity makes the book less appealing than many of the books in this genre.

R Emery, Anne. The Popular Crowd. Westminster, 1961. 171p. \$2.95.  
7-10

An honest and perceptive treatment of the problems of snobbery, poor values, and necking. Sue's parents were snobs, her college-age brother interested only in dates and his football career—only her brother Sandy, a high school senior, was aware of his family's superficial standards. All Sue wanted was to be in the popular crowd of the sophomore class . . . and she made it. Slowly, painfully, realistically she found out that she didn't really like their attitudes about money, clothes, and parties; reluctantly she gave up Pete, the captain of the football team, knowing he was only using her. The story ends simply: Sue breaks with Pete, finds she is relieved, goes to the telephone to call a long-neglected friend.

Ad Engeman, Jack. Airline Stewardess; A Picture Story. Lothrop, 1960. 119p.  
7 illus. \$3.50.

Substantially a book of photographs. A brief preface discusses the career of a stewardess and the requirements made of applicants; the remainder of the book is divided into such topics as training school, classes, graduation, around the world, jet training, history, etc. The photographs are excellent, although a considerable number are less informational than they are decorative or promotional. One section—Around the World—is, for example, a collection of scenes of interesting places all over the globe. The book gives a comprehensive (if glamorous) picture of the training, the duties, and the pleasures of being a stewardess. The photographs of scenes in dormitories are attractive, but not informative, since they show what might as well be nurses in training or college students.

Ad Floethe, Louise Lee. Sara; illus. by Richard Floethe. Ariel, 1961. 121p.  
5-7 \$2.75.

Sara is twelve, just beginning to accept her feminine role. She has always been the class playwright—and is again, but has to cede the role of the king to the detested Norton. Sara finds that Norton thinks of her as a girl . . . and reluctantly she admits to herself that he has brains and charm. Set in New York in 1925, the story has period and background interest. The writing is restrained and realistic but the characters, although believable, have little individuality.

Ad Ferris, Helen Josephine, comp. Time of Discovering; Stories of Girls Who  
7-10 Found Clues to Careers. Watts, 1961. 208p. \$3.95.

A collection of sixteen short stories that have been published in magazines during the past decade, each story by a different author. The theme of the collection is interest in a career; in some stories the interest is newly discovered, in others it is strengthened. Some of the stories are sentimental, some realistic; the collection is, on the whole, of average or above average quality but it is not outstanding.

R Foster, Virgil E. Close-Up of a Honeybee; photographed by Martin Iger.  
3-5 Scott, 1960. 64p. \$3.

An excellent introduction to the topic, with format and type-size that make the simple text easily legible. The photographs are somewhat repetitive, but they are good, especially some of the magnified photographs. Mr. Foster describes an incident that awakened his interest in honeybees, and goes on to explain the functioning of the hive, the division of labor in the bee community, and the roles of the various kinds of honeybees. A list of suggestions for further reading on this topic is appended.

R Freeman, Mae (Blacker). Fun with Scientific Experiments; by Mae and Ira  
4-6 Freeman. Random House, 1960. 59p. illus. \$1.50.

Over fifty demonstrations and home experiments are suggested here, in single or double page spreads, each illustrated by a photograph. The projects are safe, simply explained, and requiring little equipment beyond articles easily found in the home. The use of a different type face for the instructions is helpful, and the photographs are, with few exceptions, useful in making the procedure clear. The demonstrations in the areas of sound, strength of materials, energy, etc. are in random arrangement; they do not duplicate the demonstrations of the Freemans' earlier book, Fun with Science.

R Galdone, Paul, illus. The House That Jack Built. Whittlesey House, 1961.  
K-2 32p. \$2.25.

A picture book that gives a joyful interpretation of the familiar nursery rhyme. The rhyme has been left intact, and the illustrations are delightful: the first picture of the cow with a crumpled horn shows the dog being tossed, not hurt but completely surprised, into the grass; a second picture, when the lines recur, shows the cow benignly licking the dog, with only one startled eye visible in the dog's rather apprehensive face.

M Garelick, May. Where Does the Butterfly Go When It Rains; with pictures by  
3-5 Leonard Weisgard. Scott, 1961. 32p. \$3.  
yrs.

An oversize picture book to read aloud, beautifully illustrated in tones of blue in double-page spreads that show various forms of animal life in the rain. The text is slight and somewhat diffuse; it points out the behavior of other animals in the rain, but does not answer the question asked in the title. The last page: "But where can I look? I've never seen a butterfly out in the rain. Have you?," which is a rather weak ending.

M Gilbert, Nan. Academy Summer. Harper, 1961. 210p. Trade ed. \$2.95.  
7-9 Library ed. \$2.79 net.

Leslie wanted a musical career, but she didn't want to spend her life teaching piano and she didn't find the prospect of marriage to Ben—sweet but dull—exciting. When she had the chance to go to a summer music academy, she decided that she wanted to be a singer. It was hard work and often discouraging, but by the end of the summer she had achieved a small success, won a scholarship for the next summer, and found

a new love—the erratic Johnny, who shared her love of music. Good values and good characterization, but the plot is rather patterned.

Ad Gill, Bob. A Balloon for a Blunderbuss; by Bob Gill and Alastair Reid. Harper, 4-6 1961. 27p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73.  
yrs.

An imaginative read-aloud picture book that does not tell a story, but plays with ideas which depend on the illustrations for full appreciation. Based on an idea that is not unusual, of trading one object for another: the text begins with a captive butterfly that is traded for a wishbone, that is traded for a . . . etc. Eventually a folded double page opens out to show that "I would own everything." . . . and so back to the butterfly set free. The illustrations are bold, attractive and slightly distractive; the text is slight, amusing, and a bit rambling. The book will be most meaningful when used by an adult with children.

Ad Gillsäter, Sven. Pia's Journey to the Holy Land; story and pictures by Sven 5-7 and Pia Gillsäter. Harcourt, 1961. 43p. \$3.50.

An oversize book, first published in Sweden in 1960 under the title Pias Resa i Heliga Landet, a pictorial record by a Swedish photographer of a trip to Israel and Jordan. Full-color photographs show his daughter Pia against a background of diversified scenes of the Holy Land. The text gives information in a rather rambling fashion; the photographs give an insight into the Bedouin culture, the agricultural projects in Israel, the atmosphere of the Dead Sea, the many places of religious or historical significance, the crowded streets of the old cities. The vocabulary is at a level more difficult than the format, which is suitable for a younger audience; the placement of photographs with rather extensive captions makes reading of the text more difficult physically, since the continuity is broken by such placement.

R Green, Ivah E. Wildlife in Danger. Coward-McCann, 1960. 127p. illus. 5-8 \$3.50.

A compilation of brief articles about twenty-nine species of wild life that are extinct or are threatened with extinction. Each article describes some species and gives some information about habits and habitat; it describes the conservation efforts that have been made (or are being made); it discusses the manner in which the species, if extinct or nearly so, died out. Each of the species is illustrated by a photograph from real life or from a museum display. Although the author tries to be objective—and usually succeeds—in seeing the viewpoint of those who feel that a conservation program may not be necessary, her zeal for conservation of all wild life is evidenced by such remarks as "In spite of the strong feeling against wolves, they are part of our wilderness, and, as such, deserve protection from extermination." The writing is not formal, but it is brisk and a bit dry; this is more than adequately compensated for by the enthusiasm of the author, the interest of the subject, and the usefulness of such material being collected and photographically illustrated. A list of references is appended.

R Grey, Elizabeth. Friend within the Gates; The story of Nurse Edith Cavell. 7-12 Houghton, 1961. 194p. \$3.

An excellent biography of the British nurse who was executed in Belgium during World War 1 for her role in the resistance movement. Although the author presents Nurse Cavell in an undeviatingly complimentary light, the writing is never effusive. Covering childhood very briefly, Miss Grey devotes the major part of her book to a detailed account of Edith Cavell's training and experience that led to her impressive work in organizing Belgium's first lay nursing program. Excerpts from diaries and letters of the biographee add to the authenticity and interest of the book.

Ad Groves-Raines, Antony. The Tidy Hen. Harcourt, 1961. 27p. illus. \$2.75.  
4-6 yrs.

A small book for reading aloud, illustrated with paintings that are precise and detailed. Olga, a hen at the bottom of the pecking order, decides to look after an untidy child. Most of the story is devoted to details of Olga's efforts to wash clothes, tidy the bedroom, etc. Unfortunately her work was not appreciated, because the little girl jumped into bed right on top of the egg that Olga had laid. However, the tidy hen appeared in her apron, so impressing the other hens that they gave her precedence at the water trough. The pace of the writing is slow, but the details of the story are told with a sophisticated humor that is augmented by the illustrations.

M Hage, M. K. Botany; by M. K. Hage and M. Vere DeVault; illus. by Carol  
3-5 Rogers. Steck, 1960. 48p. \$1.75.

Although the material here is about plants, the title is misleading, since it does not at all adequately outline the science of botany. There is little discussion of plant morphology, of reproduction, or of the divisions of families and species. The text examines some of the aspects of plant behavior, suggesting simple home demonstrations: phototropism, osmosis, etc. The last section is called a summary, but it discusses plant products, introducing the topic for the first time. No index is appended. The material is accurate, but there are many such simple demonstration books, and many of them are better written and more detailed.

R Hall, Elvajeane. The Land and People of Argentina; illus. from photographs.  
7-12 Lippincott, 1960. 128p. (Portraits of the Nations Series) \$2.95.

Comprehensive and vividly descriptive, the story of Argentina past and present. Political and historical material is authoritative, but it is in the discussion of facets of contemporary Argentine life that Miss Hall excels, combining perceptive comments based on observation with a lively enthusiasm. An index is appended.

R Hoff, Syd. Chester; story and pictures by Syd Hoff. Harper, 1961. 64p. (I  
1 Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A picture book for beginning independent readers, with a hero who has the same compliant personality as does Ferdinand, the gentle bull. Chester was a wild horse who wanted to be caught, but was thought too tame; he tried to ingratiate himself with people, but nobody wanted him. Anxious to please, Chester was running to demonstrate ability to some children; to his joy, he was caught and was taken to the stable where he found his old friends, now tame and happy at being cared for. Ingenuous and written with light, bland humor that is augmented by the cartoon-style illustrations.

R Holmberg, Ake. Margaret's Story; tr. by Gerry Bothmer. Viking, 1961. 190p.  
7-10 \$3.

Translated from the Swedish, the story of a young girl of Stockholm, left orphaned at the age of seventeen. Part of the story is told as third-person narrative, part as first-person quotations from Margaret's diary. The characters are perceptively portrayed, the events in Margaret's story are realistic, and the writing style loses no pace in translation. Margaret has minor troubles and mild successes in her relationships with friends and relatives and in her problems of school, jobs, and finances; there is no element of melodrama, but a natural and logical development of events.

R Hughes, Langston. The First Book of Africa. Watts, 1960. 82p. illus. \$1.95.  
5-7

A good general picture of the emergent nations of Africa, although necessarily superficial in coverage; the author's carefulness in indicating the probability of political changes keeps the book from being dated even though such changes have already made some of the material out of date. Mr. Hughes gives most of his information about the

lesser-known countries, mentioning such nations as Egypt and Tunisia only to round out the picture. The text covers history, tribal patterns, government and racial tensions chiefly, with brief references to art, education, etc. Well-written and objective; index is appended. A statement that the library at Alexandria was destroyed by Julius Caesar is made, a broad assumption in view of the fact that this has not been established with certainty.

NR Hunter, Evan. The Remarkable Harry; pictures by Ted, Mark and Richard K-2 Hunter. Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 46p. \$2.95.

A read-aloud picture book in rhyme, with crayon illustrations drawn by the author's three small boys. Mr. Hunter tells the tall tale of a man with a prodigiously long mustache; Harry's wife Harriet objected, so he went to the barber who waxed the mustache. Harry took off in flight, got too close to the sun and the wax melted; down he came, his flight broken by birds who came to the rescue. His wife enjoyed the fame, and they lived happily ever after. The rhyme is of mediocre calibre, the nonsense is elaborated upon to the detriment of humor, and the illustrations are unlikely to appeal to other children.

M Kay, Helen. The Cats on Pier 56; illus. by Ralph E. Ricketts. Reilly and Lee, 3-5 1961. 45p. \$2.75.

A rather drawn-out story, with illustrations that are somewhat obtrusive in size (one pair of facing pages, for example, has a large drawing of a man's face on each over-size page, with only nine lines of text on each page) and are repetitive. Two longshoreman, Mike and Bill, have a rift in their friendship when one adopts three kittens over the objections of the other. The kittens grow, and the cat population numbers thirty-five. When a cat from the original litter is injured, a collection is taken up for medical care, all the longshoremen contribute to a weekly food fund, and Mike and Bill become friends again. Beyond a demonstration of kindness to animals, and a small amount of information about the work of longshoremen, the book has little to offer, and the format is too juvenile for fourth and fifth graders.

Ad Kumin, Maxine W. Spring Things; illus. by Artur Marokvia. Putnam, 1961. 1-2 48p. (See and Read Story Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

A story in verse for the beginning independent reader. A small boy describes his seventh birthday, and wonders what his last gift—a surprise that is to come in the spring—will be. His parents tell him to look for spring things and try to guess; since he lives on a farm, his spring things are apple trees, baby mice, warm wind, new plants. He finally guesses—the cow is going to calve, and when he sees the new calf that is to be his own, the boy quotes his father: "You can't hurry nature . . . the spring things. They take time to grow!" Pleasantly evocative, but somewhat slow of pace; the meter of the verse is occasionally faulty.

R Kuskin, Karla. The Bear Who Saw the Spring. Harper, 1961. 45p. illus. 4-7 Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

yrs.

A charming picture book about the seasons, with very attractive illustrations that complement nicely the direct simplicity and the gentle quality of the poetry. A very small dog, seeing his first spring, is taken in hand by a large bear, who explains all the phenomena of the season. Again, in summer, fall, and winter the two explore the changes in the outdoor world. There is a pleasant feeling of friendliness in the story, which can be appreciated as much as an animal story as it can a story about the seasons. A wonderful book to read aloud.

Ad Levy, Mimi Cooper. Caravan from Timbuktu; illus. by Frederick T. Chapman.

6-8 Viking, 1961. 192p. \$3.

An adventure story with unusual background: Africa in the fourteenth century. Batu, a boy of twelve, goes with his father in an imperial caravan of sixty thousand Moslems going to Mecca on a pilgrimage. He becomes involved in the treacherous plot of a Grand Vizier to usurp power by putting a new ruler on the throne of the Emperor and himself becoming the power behind the throne. While the author has given Batu large portions of courage, persistence, and acumen (he keeps spotting clues that the adults miss), nothing that he does strains credulity. The writing has pace and the desert atmosphere is persuasively invoked.

M Lubell, Winifred. Up a Tree; by Winifred Lubell and Cecil Lubell. Rand McK-  
K-2 Nally, 1961. 39p. illus. \$2.75.

A story about a Siamese cat that climbed a tree, frightened by a dog. All the members of the family dreamed about rescuing Kira, but their worries about the stubborn cat proved unnecessary; in the morning she was found sleeping in Janey's bed. The illustrations are variable, some being quite ordinary, some quite lovely. The story is reminiscent of Grace Klein's short story "Serena and the Cookie Lady."

R McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. The Golden Goblet. Coward-McCann, 1961. 248p.  
7-10 \$3.50.

An exciting adventure tale, set in Egypt, that is written with remarkable unity and has a mounting tempo of suspense. Young Ranofar, who longs to be a goldsmith, is forced by his bullying half-brother to become an apprentice stone-cutter. Ranofar suspects that Gebu is a thief, and to find proof he follows Gebu; in an exciting climax the boy traps his brother in the tomb that is being robbed. Vivid characterization and fine creation of period and atmosphere of Theban life in the community of craftsmen.

M Marino, Dorothy (Bronson). Good Night George; written and illus. by Dorothy  
1-2 Marino. Dial, 1961. 30p. \$2.50.

A very slight book for reading aloud, telling of a small boy's visit to his grandparents' farm. Georgie sees the tractor, the chickens and the cat, the dog and her puppies. At bedtime he makes the rounds with his grandfather, saying goodnight. Georgie disappears, and is found asleep in the box with the puppies, being guarded by the dog. The story and the pictures give some idea of the attractions of a farm, but the story has only a modicum of pace and direction, and the illustrations are of only moderate quality.

R Mason, George Frederick. The Bear Family; written and illus. by George F.  
4-6 Mason. Morrow, 1960. 96p. \$2.75.

A book that is scientifically accurate, detailed and comprehensive, yet so enlivened by anecdotes based on personal experience that it is as entertaining as it is informative. Mr. Mason discusses the bear family and its evolution from the small miacis. One discrepancy in the text is the statement that the miacids lived forty million years ago, followed by the author's chart on the next page: this states that the miacis lived fifty million years ago, and by the time ten million years had gone by, the daphaenons had evolved. Separate sections describe the black bear, the grizzly, the brown bear, the polar bear, and bears of other lands; Mr. Mason gives a great deal of information about the anatomy of bears, their habits and the habitats of the various species.

M Mason, Miriam Evangeline. Becky and Her Brave Cat, Bluegrass; illus. by  
3-4 Robert MacLean. Macmillan 1960. 135p. \$2.75.

A storybook about the trip made by Daniel Boone and his family from Sugar Tree Village to a new settlement in Kentucky. The protagonist is Becky, the youngest

Boone daughter. While the book gives information about the travels of a pioneer family, the writing is permeated with stilted phrases that are obtrusive. "We have looked long and well. We have seen everything. Now we had better begin work on our house," says Mrs. Boone to her husband. Another weakness in the writing is the exaggeration in some of the narrative passages: "The old cow was more than just a cow to the Boone family. She was their pet and all of them loved her dearly. She was almost like an aunt or a grandmother to the children."

NR Nelson, Marg. Mystery at Land's End. Ariel, 1961. 192p. \$2.95.  
6-8

Marcie goes to Land's End to spend her sophomore year in high school and live with her aunt and uncle. She becomes the most popular girl in school, a position she has determined to achieve; she wins the affection of Grant, which she had decided she wanted before she ever met him; she helps unearth Grant's true identity, he being the sole relative of the two mysterious elderly ladies in a mysterious old house nearby. Etcetera. Formula on formula is included in the plot, the characters are cardboard, the writing style pedestrian.

Ad Newberry, Clare (Turlay). Frosty; story and pictures by Clare Turlay Newberry. Harper, 1961. 92p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.  
2-4  
A pleasant story about a family and their dog, written with humor and filled with the small details of everyday life. Felice, a real and endearing girl of eight, wanted a puppy and was a little afraid of the huge dog that her parents had chosen at the animal shelter. Gradually Frosty won Felice's heart, and all the family began to think it would be nice to get another dog of the same breed. The mingling of Mexican and American names is the only indication of differences in background: a nicely casual treatment for the young reader. A good dog story, and a good picture of family life and neighborly relationships, but slow of pace.

Ad O'Neill, Mary. Hailstones and Halibut Bones; Adventures in Color; illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Doubleday, 1961. 59p. \$2.95.  
5-  
Evocative poems, each about a different color; each poem is delectably illustrated with pictures of objects referred to—in the appropriate color. The poetry has fresh imagery—it has phrases that immediately waken recognition of the familiar—but it has also some concepts that are too sophisticated for the reader for whom most of the work is appropriate. For example, "White is the absence of all color/ Then absence is white/ Out of touch/ Out of sight." or "Black is a feeling/ Hard to explain/ Like suffering but/ Without the pain." These are comprehensible to the older reader, but not as universal and immediate as "Gold is the sunshine/ Light and thin/ Warm as a muffin/ On your skin." or "Green is a coolness/ You get in the shade/ Of the tall old woods/ Where the moss is made." Most of the poems are pleasant to read aloud, although there are occasional jarring lapses in the rhythm. Probably the best use is reading aloud by an adult to a child.

M Palmer, Myron Tim. The Egyptian Necklace; written and illus. by Myron Tim Palmer. Houghton, 1961. 135p. \$2.75.  
6-8

An adventure story of ancient Egypt, illustrated by drawings in the Egyptian style, some in black and white and some in full color. Mr. Palmer's book, it is stated, was written to encourage an interest in art history: the story may do so, the illustrations are certainly of interest, but the fact that the illustrations do not illustrate the story (although they are placed at appropriate places) weakens the book. The writing style is rather heavy, the plot not unusual; interest is more in the Egyptian background than in the action, and the background detail does not compare with that of The Golden Goblet (reviewed in this issue). Both books are concerned with tomb robbery, the plot here involving a slave and an overseer who are hoping to involve an honorable



family, the culprits being foiled by the son and his friend.

Ad Peet, William Bartlett. Huge Harold; written and illus. by Bill Peet. Houghton, 1961. 46p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$3.75.

A picture book tall tale in rhyme. Harold started out as a small rabbit with huge feet, and fulfilled his father's prediction. He grew huge—as big as a cow; so he left but didn't seem to fit anywhere. Foxes chased him, cows spurned him, farmers hunted him; finally a kind farmer gave Harold a home in his barn—taught him to pull a buggy, and finally entered him in a trotting race. Harold won and was the toast of the fans. Pleasant nonsense, with the illustrations showing a delightfully raffish animal; the story is slowed, however, by being a bit too drawn out.

SpC Ponsot, Marie, tr. The Snow Queen; And Other Tales; illus. by Adrienne Ségur. 4-6 Golden Press, 1961. 136p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net.

A collection of folk tales and fairy tales that merits inclusion in an art collection because of the unusual quality of the illustrations. Some of the drawings are in full color, but more beautiful ones are palest blue and black: exquisitely detailed, soft and romantic, the illustrations are wonderful in technique and singularly appropriate for the genre. The retellings of the stories—Russian fairy tales, and stories by Dumas, Andersen, Grimm, and Troyat—are pedestrian: awkward phrases and obtrusive words that corrupt the folk quality that is in the better versions of these tales.

Ad Reit, Seymour. Where's Willie?; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Golden Press, 1961. 1-2 31p. (Golden Beginner Reader) Trade ed. \$1; Library ed. \$1.49 net.

Engagingly illustrated, a book for beginning independent readers. Willie is a small black kitten with a talent for wandering off to crawl into unlikely containers in unlikely places. He had a beautiful basket, but Willie would never crawl into it—just into hats, laundry bags, saucepans, etc. When Willie disappeared for a long time, everybody hunted for him, finding him at last in the one place they didn't expect: his own basket. Slightly contrived, but amusing; useful as additional material for the voracious beginner.

M Robinson, Charles Alexander. The First Book of Ancient Greece; pictures by 4-6 Lili Rethi. Watts, 1960. 61p. \$1.95.

A companion volume to The First Book of Ancient Rome, reviewed in the July Bulletin, 1960. Mr. Robinson is a professor of classics at Brown University, and he is authoritative on the subject, but he is not adept at writing for a juvenile audience: there is too much material covered, some of it (a synopsis of Oedipus Rex, for example) irrelevant. Because so much is essayed, the coverage is superficial, and there is an effect of talking-down to the reader. An index is appended, as is a quite brief list of words on our language which have Greek roots.

NR Rosenfield, Bernard. Let's Go to the F. B. I.; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. Put- 3-5 man, 1960. 48p. \$1.95.

Pedestrian writing and cartoon-style illustrations in a book that gives only a modicum of information about the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Even as a tour of the building, the text is quite rambling; the overtones of complacency are obtrusive: "Everyone knows that once a criminal's name is on this list, he usually will be caught soon." or "Ask your guide. He will be glad to answer it. All the people who work for the FBI are trained to be helpful and courteous." The appended glossary gives only nine terms, several of them (fingerprints, for example) having been explained at length in the body of the text.

M Rosenfield, Bernard. Let's Go to the U. S. Mint; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. 3-5 Putman, 1960. 44p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$1.86 net.

A description of the way in which coins are minted; both text and illustration are extended, giving material (or drawings) that are not pertinent, although there is informative material in both. The writing style is pedestrian and quite dull. A brief glossary is appended. The book shares the weakness of the series: a direct time and place approach, which is not needed to give information.

NR Ruthin, Margaret. Jungle Nurse; illus. by Hugh Marshall. Watts, 1960. 191p. 7-9 \$2.95.

A melodramatic adventure story about two girls in the jungles of Burma. Jill and Marcelle are saved from drowning in a monsoon flood by the intelligence of the elephant they are riding, they drive away a tiger by throwing water at him, they outwit a band of thieves who are trying to get the shipment of government money from a plane that has crashed. They nurse the wounded men from their own camp who are besieged in the ruins of the plane . . . etc. Poor writing style, unbelievable plot, superficial characterization.

R Sasek, Miroslav. This Is Munich. Macmillan, 1961. 60p. illus. Trade ed. \$3; 4-6 Library ed. \$4.25.

Another in the author's delightful series of books about the great cities of the world, with equally lovely illustrations and with gaiety in both text and illustrations. Most of the drawings show the famous buildings of Munich: the churches, the museums, and the municipal buildings. Other illustrations show the traditional Munich festivals and the bits of local color that give this series its special charm: the art students and the roadsweepers, the Bavarian musicians and the beerhall. It is regrettable that the text never mentions the fact that Munich is in Germany: all references are to Bavaria rather than Germany.

R Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Tony's Birds; illus. by Kurt Werth. Harper, 1961. 1-2 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

An admirable example of the good science material for the beginning independent reader. Tony becomes interested in birds while taking a walk with his father, and his own interest in bird-watching grows. A simple story, but it moves along as a narrative, it is a convincing presentation of growing interest in a hobby, has good father-son relations, and is scientifically accurate. The illustrations suggest—but do not stress the fact that Tony is a Negro; it is delightful to see this fact treated with the unimportance it deserves.

R Shirer, William L. The Rise and Fall of Adolf Hitler. Random House, 1961. 5-8 185p. illus. (Landmark Books) \$1.95.

Although there are occasional sequences of sentences taken from Mr. Shirer's massive The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, the text is completely and carefully rewritten in a simple and informal style. Not as detailed as Snyder's Hitler and Nazism (Watts, 1961) but equally useful, since each serves a different reading level. No sources are cited; an index is appended.

Ad Shortall, Leonard. Country Snowplow; written and illus. by Leonard Shortall. 2-3 Morrow, 1960. 48p. \$2.50.

A slight book, useful for independent reading in the primary grades because of the simplicity of the style and the realistic treatment. During a heavy snowstorm, young Tom helps the men running a snowplow find a way to get past some stalled trucks. His accomplishment is credible, and there is no extraneous writing. The illustrations, especially the snow scenes in grey and white, are pleasant.

Ad Smith, Emma. Emily; The Traveling Guinea Pig; illus. by Katherine Wigglesworth. McDowell, Obolensky, 1959. 76p. \$2.75.

Emily Guinea Pig loved her tidy house and hated leaving her dear brother Arthur, but she felt again the urge to travel. This time to the sea. The story of her trip and of the other animal characters she met en route is interspersed with episodes about the delightfully slovenly existence Arthur enjoyed in Emily's absence. Reminiscent of The Wind in the Willows in the combination of highly individual animals, behavior that is human rather than animal, and fairly sophisticated level of vocabulary. The writing does not compare in literary quality to that of Grahame, nor is there the same unity of plot, but Emily has humor and several amusing characterizations. The quality of the illustrations is mediocre and quite sentimental. While appropriate for independent reading at the level indicated, the book may well be even more suitable for reading aloud to younger children.

M Townsend, J. David. The Cats Stand Accused; illus. by Leonard Shortall. 5-6 Houghton, 1961. 122p. \$2.75.

A rather drawn-out incident is used as the basis for a book; this, plus the fact that the writing style is heavy, makes a very slow-paced story. The four Reed children refuse to believe that their two cats could have eaten the guinea pig that was the pet of the girl next door, so they decide to hold a trial. There are elements of humor in the rigid observance of court procedure, but the situation is over-extended and the children's remarks seem often stilted or precocious.

R Underhill, Ruth M. Antelope Singer; illus. by Ursula Koering. Coward-Mc-4-7 Cann, 1961. 280p. \$3. 50.

An unusual story of pioneers and Indians, absorbing in its development, authentic in its background detail. The Hunt family were forced to stay behind their wagon train because of illness, and they were rescued by a Paiute Indian tribe who were grateful because the Hunts had saved one of their children when he was abandoned because of dreaded measles. As the Hunts learned the ways of their hosts, they came to appreciate the Indians; encouraged by Tad Hunt, his friend (an Indian boy his own age) took courage and became the Antelope Singer whose ability brought good hunting. A sympathetic and competent picture of an Indian culture is integrated with remarkable smoothness into a tale in which interest is sustained by plot development and good characterization.

Ad Watson, Jane (Werner). The Sciences of Mankind; charts and drawings by Campbell Grant. Golden Press, 1960. 176p. (De Luxe Golden Books) Trade ed. 8-10 \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.99 net.

An oversize book, liberally illustrated with diagrams and photographs in color. The text describes the ways in which social scientists study and work in their various fields. The contents are divided into four sections: "Studying Peoples of the Past," "Studying the Individual and the Family," "Studying Living and Working in Groups," and "Studying Communities and Societies." Actual or typical cases may be cited to illustrate a point (the typical stress worker, for example, in the discussion of adolescents), but the major part of the text discusses areas of interest to political scientists—or anthropologists—or social workers—or demographers—etc. The writing style is quite informal, the organization of materials somewhat random, and the coverage wide but not deep.

NR Weismann, Donald L. Some Folks Went West. Steck, 1960. 39p. illus. \$2.25. 4-6

A book about the first settlers and the westward move, with emphasis being on the people themselves, their patterns, their problems, their solutions. This is not a history book—no names are cited—and the approach is interesting. The book is, however, weakened by several factors. The illustrations are distractingly full, and the pop-eyed characters in them are unattractive. The text is static, and the attitude toward In-

dians (for whom there is an occasional kind word) is on the whole without sympathy: "But there could be no settlement of the west until a way was found to subdue the dangerous Indians, who had no respect for human life or for anyone's wishes but their own."

Ad Weiss, Harvey. Horse in No Hurry; illus. by the author. Putnam, 1961.  
2-4 71p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.68 net.

A sequel to Paul's Horse Herman, in which Paul acquired the sleepest horse in his-  
tory. Here Paul and his friend John-Thomas decide to race Herman against Jessica's  
dog Morton, an equally sedate animal. The slow-moving text describes the "race,"  
which is delayed by intermittent rambling ploys. Static in pace, but written with hu-  
mor and with excellent friendship values.

R Wibberley, Leonard. Sea Captain from Salem. Ariel, 1961. 186p. \$2.95.  
6-9

Third in a series of books about the Revolutionary War, this volume carries on the  
story of the role played by Peace of God Manly, the Salem fisherman who saved Peter's  
life in Peter Treegate's War. Here Captain Manly is sent on a mission by Benjamin  
Franklin, who is trying to convince the French that they should come to the aid of the  
colonies by demonstrating to the French that the Americans can win battles at sea.  
Peace of God is vividly characterized, the historical background is excellent, and the  
descriptions of the sea battles are filled with excitement and suspense.

M Wormser, Sophie. About Silkworms and Silk; illus. by Harry Garo. Melmont,  
2-4 1961. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

A description of a third-grade classroom's project of growing silkworms. The text  
gives information with simplicity, but it is very dry; the narrative format achieves  
little, since the book is dull as a story and is, as a source of information, impeded  
by the fictional framework. Useful as a curricular aid, but severely limited by the  
subject, which is not of wide interest, and by the style of writing.

Ad Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). The Three Funny Friends; pictures by Mary  
4-6 Chalmers. Harper, 1961. 32p. Trade ed. \$1.75; Library ed. \$1.99 net.  
yrs.

A small book, engagingly illustrated, about the imaginary friends of a little girl  
who had just moved and had no playmates. One of her funny friends was a bear who  
got into trouble, one a girl doll who granted wishes, one a boy doll who did for her  
all the things the little girl didn't want to do. When she found a real friend, the little  
girl stopped pretending. Understanding and gently humorous, the story perceptively  
portrays the fantasies of an imaginative child; it is probable, however, that many  
children to whom the book is read aloud will miss the implications that are evident  
—and endearing—to the adult.

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## *Reading for Librarians*

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- Bowden, M. G. and McGuire, Alice Brooks. "Central Libraries in Elementary Schools." NEA Journal, March 1961, p.63.
- Brown, Willis C. Aerospace Periodicals for Teachers and Pupils. Circular 556A, rev. 1960. Order #OE-29010. Publications Inquiry Unit, Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C. Divided by age level.
- Glaister, Geoffrey Ashall. An Encyclopedia of the Book. World, 1960. 484p. \$17.50. A history of books and a reference source for the high school student as well as the adult reader.
- Hodges, Elizabeth. "The Elementary School Library." Childhood Education, March 1961, pp.324-27.
- Hudson, Derek. Arthur Rackham. Scribner, 1960. 181p. \$20.
- Klohn, Louise. "Library Pages." The Clearing House, March 1961, pp.435-37.
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- Olson, Barbara V. "Aids for Librarians in Elementary Schools." Elementary English, May 1961, pp.336-41. Divided into general lists, subject lists, indexes, audio-visual materials, magazine selection tools, etc.
- Westchester Library System. Children's Books: Awards and Prizes. Available from the Children's Book Council, Inc., 175 Fifth Ave., New York 10. \$.50.
- Zimmerman, Mary Teeter, and others. Using the Library: A Guide to Library Skills. Merrill, 1960. 30p. \$.60. Charles E. Merrill Books, Columbus 16, Ohio.

